

Owners of broadcast media make huge profits off of the airwaves that belong to public. Because such profits are a privilege not a right, they must use that privilege only in the public interest.

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is unconscionable. and a gross abuse of the public trust because of their unfair influence on the local political process. This is especially important in the usually conservative San Joaquin Valley where local media is skewed towards the Republican Party. It is vitally important then that the media equally represent at least both of the major political parties and not just what reflects the private political agenda of its owners. No one is really fooled by Pappas's offer to purchase the time to air his Republican beliefs.

Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. This outrageous action violates not only the letter but the spirit of the law governing use of the public airways. We need to strengthen media ownership rules. Further, these actions show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard.

Thank you.